In the claims:

1. (Currently amended) A wiper system for vehicles, having at least one wiper lever linkage that has at least one wiper arm and that includes a first pivot lever, ~~which can be coupled~~couplable to a stationary first shaft in a manner fixed against relative rotation, and a second pivot lever ~~that can be coupled~~couplable to a stationary second shaft in a manner fixed against relative rotation, the pivot levers being connected ~~in articulated fashion to~~by a first coupling means embodied as a coupling element, ~~characterized in that~~ the coupling element (9) is embodied in multiple parts and has a first coupling part (11) and a second coupling part (13), which are coupled to one another with the aid of a first joint (15), the at least one wiper arm (35) is secured to the second coupling part (13), the first coupling part is connected on its end opposite to the first joint (15) to the first pivot lever (5) via a second joint (17) and the second coupling part (13) is connected on its end opposite to the first joint (15) to the second pivot lever (7) via a third joint (19), characterized in that, the second coupling part (13) is longer than the first coupling part (11), and the first pivot lever (5) and the second pivot lever (7) are connected by a second coupling means in their swinging motion.

2. (Currently amended) The wiper system of claim 1, characterized by a drive device (41) for the wiper lever linkage (3), which device includes at least one first drive crank (43) ~~that can be coupled~~coupleable in a manner fixed against relative rotation to the first shaft (21) or the second shaft (29).

3. (Currently amended) The wiper system claim ~~1~~2, characterized in that the first drive crank (43) ~~can be coupled~~coupleable to the first shaft (21) in a manner fixed against relative rotation, and that the drive device (41) has a second drive crank (45) ~~that can be coupled~~coupleable in a manner fixed against relative rotation to the second shaft (29).

4. (Currently amended) The wiper system of claims ~~1~~2, characterized by a coupling member (47), which joins the first and second drive cranks (43, 45) to one another and which is coupled to the drive cranks (43, 45) via a respective joint (49, 51), and that at least one engine crank (59) is connected in articulated fashion to the first drive crank (43) or the second drive crank (45).

5. (Currently amended) The wiper system claim ~~1~~3, characterized in that the first and second drive cranks (43, 45) are each connected in articulated fashion to a respective engine crank (59, 67).

6. (Currently amended) The wiper system of claim ~~1~~5, characterized in that the engine crank (59, 67) is displaceable transversely, or essentially transversely, to the first and second shafts (21, 29).

Claims 7-8 cancelled.

9. (Currently amended) The wiper system claim 1, characterized in that ~~the~~ joints (17, 19) between the pivot levers (5, 7) and the coupling element (9) and the additional joint (15) between the coupling parts (11, 13) are embodied as cylindrical joints, whose pivot axes extend parallel to one another and preferably parallel to the first and second shafts (21, 29).

10. (Currently amended) A method for operating a wiper lever linkage of a wiper system for vehicles, the wiper lever linkage having at least one wiper arm, ~~in particular of one or more of the foregoing claims, which wiper lever linkage includes~~ a first pivot lever, ~~which can be~~

~~coupled~~coupleable to a stationary first shaft in a manner fixed against relative rotation, a second pivot lever ~~which can be coupled~~coupleable to a stationary second shaft in a manner fixed against relative rotation, a first drive crank ~~which can be coupled~~coupleable to the first shaft in a manner fixed against relative rotation, a second drive crank ~~which can be coupled~~coupleable to the second shaft in a manner fixed against relative rotation, ~~and~~ a coupling member connected in articulated fashion to the drive cranks, the pivot levers being connected by a first coupling means embodied as a coupling element, the coupling element (9) is embodied in multiple parts and has a first coupling part (11) and a second coupling part (13), which are coupled to one another with the aid of a first joint (15), the at least one wiper arm (35) is secured to the second coupling part (13), the first coupling part is connected on its end opposite to the first joint (15) to the first pivot lever (5) via a second joint (17) and the second coupling part (13) is connected on its end opposite to the first joint (15) to the second pivot lever (7) via a third joint (19), the method having the following steps:

- during one wiping cycle, the first and second drive cranks are first pivoted out of an outset position of the wiper lever linkage in the same direction until they are in an extended position, in which the coupling member and the first drive crank are aligned with one another;

- next, upon a displacement of the wiper lever linkage out of the extended position into a turning point position, the first drive crank is pivoted onward in the same direction and the second drive crank is pivoted onward in the opposite direction;

- providing the second coupling part longer than the first coupling part, and connecting the first pivot lever and the second pivot lever by a second coupling means in their swinging motion.

11. (Original claim) The method of claim 10, characterized in that the pivoting motions of the drive cranks are dependent on one another.